my Congressional Fellowship Progra

Overview

Purpose:

The purpose of the Army Congressional Fellowship Program is to educate and train selected Army officers and civilians in all aspects of congressional activities, emphasizing those matters regarding the Department of Defense (Army Regulation 1-202, Army Congressional Fellowship Program)

Overview:

The Army Congressional Fellowship is a three and a half year program, which includes pursuit of the Master's Degree in Legislative Affairs, service on the staff of a Member of Congress, and utilization on the Army or Joint Staff in a Legislative Liaison duty position

Master's Degree in Legislative Affairs:

Beginning in 2009, Army Congressional Fellows pursue a fully funded graduate degree from George Washington University (GWU), earning a Master's Degree in Legislative Affairs while

Overview

Eligibility Criteria:

Military: Active Duty officers with six or less years commissioned service; Army Reserve and Army National Guard Captains or Majors (with no more that 4 yrs time in grade)

Civilians: GS-12 thru GS-15 (or equivalent), bachelor's degree, serving in position requiring knowledge of Congress

Utilization Tours:

OSD Directive requires a 2 year utilization immediately following completion of fellowship and a 3 year ADSO, the fully funded Master's Degree adds 18 months to the ADSO for a full 4.5 years

Timeline

October: Board meets and prepares OML

December: CLL selects Fellows and alternates

January/February: Recommended Fellows approved by M&RA and OSD (P&R), orders cut

May: Fellows report into OCLL for an Orientation Program, start the fully funded Master's Degree in Legislative Affairs at George Washington University

May-Dec: seek placement in Member's office, and attend scheduled training to include:

- HQDA orientation
- One week force management course
- Briefings from all congressional liaison division chiefs
- Meetings with senior Army leadership and CLL
- Information sessions with AUSA, TROA, GAO, OCAR and ARNG

December: Attend two/three weeks of training by Fellowship Sponsor

Guidance

- Army will have no more than 24 military and 1 civilian

- Fellows must serve on personal staffs:
  - Members on Defense Oversight Committees
  - Intelligence Oversight Committee
  - Senate Homeland Security & Government Affairs
  - House Homeland Security, Senate Foreign Relations
  - House Foreign Affairs or Senate and House Veterans' Affairs
  - Staff of the House, Senate Majority or Minority leader
  - Staff of the Speaker of the House

- OSD closely manages the placement process – OSD decides which service interviews with which Member of Congress

- No Congressional office may have more than one Defense Fellow assigned

Army Congressional Orientation Program (ACOP)

- Secretary of the Army initiative, established September 2007
- Program consists of 8 to10 participants quarterly
- Participants – MAJ thru COL, Sr NCOs, and GS-13/15
- Length - 89 days
- Placement - Member or Committee office, as determined by OCLL
- Training - one week orientation program